

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

⑤ Int. Cl.⁶: **A01J 7/00**, **A01K 1/12**

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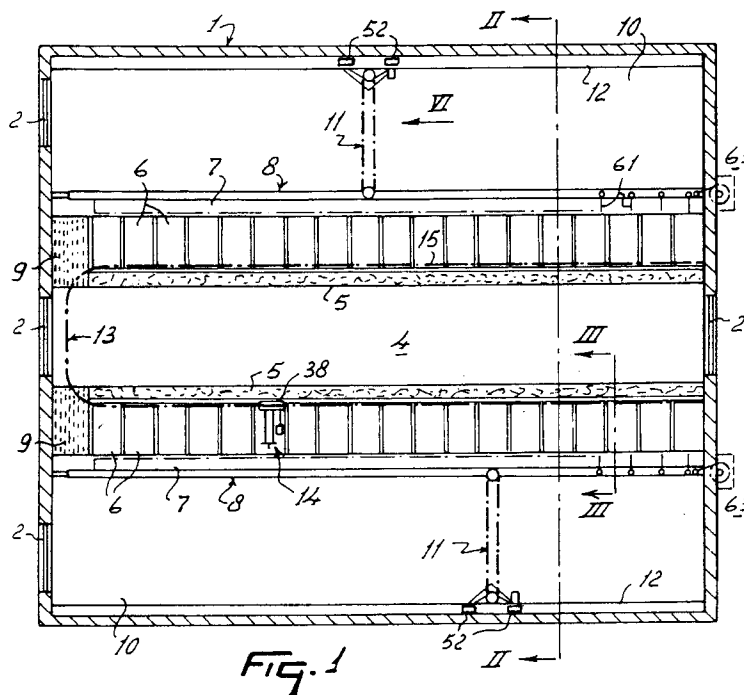
Ⓢ Date of deferred publication of the search report:
15.03.95 Bulletin 95/11

⑦① Applicant: **Texas Industries Inc.**

(54) A construction for automatically milking animals.

57) The invention relates to a construction for automatically milking animals, such as cows, provided with a milking robot (14). The construction comprises a shed (1) or any other space where the animals are

allowed to move freely. The shed (1) or other space is designed such that the milking robot (14) moves to an animal to be milked and performs the milking on the spot.





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 94 20 2042

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	DE-A-37 02 465 (DUVELSDORF & SOHN) * column 6, line 16 - column 8, line 60 * * claims; figures * ---	1,22,23	A01J7/00 A01K1/12
A	FR-A-2 561 866 (ALTHABE) * claims; figures * ---	1,12,22, 23	
A	FR-A-2 298 943 (LAPIERRE) * page 3, line 35 - page 5, line 14 * * claims; figures * -----	1,12,22	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			A01J A01K
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 19 September 1994	Examiner PIRIOU, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ All claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ Only part of the claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid,
namely claims:
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions,

namely:

1. Claims 1-12 and 14-38 as long as related to 1-12
2. Claims 13-38
3. Claim 39

- see annex -

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid,
namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees has been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.
namely claims: mentioned in item 1.

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Lack of unity of invention "A PRIORI"

The EPO considers that there are 3 inventions claimed in this application covered by the following groups of claims:

1. claims 1-12 and 14-38: a construction for automatically milking animals, such as cows, provided with a milking robot whereby the construction comprises a shed or any other space where the animals are allowed to move about freely and which is constructed in such a way that the milking robot can move to an animal to be milked and milks the animal on the spot.

2. claims 13-38: a construction for automatically milking animals, such as cows, provided with a milking robot whereby the construction comprises a concentrates dispensing system through which the animals can be individually given concentrates, while there are also provided signalling means which serve to draw the attention of an animal to the supply of concentrates.

3. claim 39: a construction for automatically milking animals, such as cows, provided with a milking robot whereby every resting box is provided with a concentrates dispensing system including a feed through movable in height and pivotable on a virtually vertical shaft.

These groups of inventions are not so linked as to form a single inventive concept.

There is no technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same technical features.

Consequently, an objection because of lack of unity of invention as to be made.